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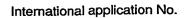
WIPO **PCT**

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

(Rationalised Report according to the Notice of the President of the EPO published in the OJ11/2001)

Applicant's or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION	ON See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
T1587	International filing date (day	lmonth (year)	Priority date (day month year)
International application No.		,,	23/07/2002
PCT/GB03/03098 17/07/2003 23/07/2002 International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC			
G07D309/10			
Applicant			
MERCK SHARP & DOHME LIMITED et al.			
 This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36. 			
2. This REPORT consists of a total of sheets, including this cover sheet.			
This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).			
These annexes consists of a total of sheets.			
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:			
I X Basis of the report			
II Priority			
III X Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability			
IV Lack of unity of invention			
V X Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement			
VI Certain documents cited			
VII Certain defects in the international application			
VIII Certain observations on the international application			
Date of submission of the demand	Da	te of completion o	of this report
04/12/2003		10/02/2	2004.
04/12/2003			CRASCHES PATENT
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/	Au	thorized officer	REAL PROPERTY.
Bur opean Patent Office VERHULST W			
D-80298 Munich Tel. (+49-89) 2399-0, Tx: 522	3656 epmu d	1 / 1 40 001 000	We wreadow?
Fax: (+49-89) 2399-4465	Te	1. (+49-89) 2399 :	2828 SP 30HO - 30HB 9



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

PCT/GB03/03098

I. Basis of the report

The basis of this international preliminary examination is the application as originally filed.

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

The question of whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step, or to be industrially applicable has not been the subject of the international preliminary examination in respect of the claims which have not been searched (Article 17(2)(a) or (3) and Rule 66.1(e) PCT); see also international search report).

V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability

To the extent that the international preliminary examination has been carried out (see item III above), the following is pointed out:

In light of the documents cited in the international search report, it is considered that the invention as defined in at least some of the claims, which have been the subject of an international search report, does not appear to meet the criteria mentioned in Article 33(1) PCT, i.e. does not appear to be novel and/or to involve an inventive step (see international search report, in particular the documents cited X and/or Y and corresponding claim references).